

**Subject:** Essential: After the terror

**From:** Nita - L.A. Times

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Los Angeles Times

## Essential California

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Good morning. It is **Saturday, Dec. 12**. I'm [Nita Lelyveld](#), writer of **City Beat** features, filling in so that Alice Walton and Shelby Grad can stop staring at their screens for a bit.

In a column called *Brevities* in this newspaper on this day in 1889, the following warning was issued: "The parties who borrowed a fox from a fox-culture establishment in this city are informed that the slightest bite or scratch from the animal will produce hydrophobia and nostalgia in its most virulent form."

Here's what you need to know to start your weekend informed:

### TOP STORIES

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#### **Immune no more**

For a long time, Californians may have felt themselves immune to the **terrorist attacks** that hit cities elsewhere in the U.S. and in Europe. San Bernardino changed that — though the state always was vulnerable, whether residents acknowledge it or not. Perhaps in feeling safe, we let our guard down. [L.A. Times](#)

#### **Faraway family**

"It's a disaster for our lives," says Tashfeen Malik's brother, who lives in Riyadh. His family is devastated by the deadly **San Bernardino rampage** carried out by his sister and Syed Rizwan Farook, he said. They also are grieving. "We are crying for more than one week now." [L.A. Times](#)

#### **Muslim fears**

Many Muslims in the Inland Empire have lived in fear since the San Bernardino massacre amid the **heated anti-Muslim rhetoric** that has come in its wake. Some say they're too scared to go out alone. They're worried too

that even people they've known for years now will look upon them with suspicion. [L.A. Times](#)

### The whole story

The ongoing **investigation**. Memories of the **victims**. We've collected it all for you [here](#).

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## DROUGHT AND CLIMATE

**Pummeled pier:** Strong surf damaged the 143-year-old **Ventura Pier** and flooded some nearby streets Friday. [L.A. Times](#)

**Mapping the Mojave:** A California nonprofit called Blueprint Earth is "cataloging all the rocks, animals, insects, streams, plants, bacteria and weather of one square kilometer in the Mojave Desert," says KPCC's Sanden Totten. Think of it as a blueprint to rebuild if climate change wreaks havoc on the sensitive ecosystem. [89.3 KPCC](#)

## L.A. AT LARGE

**Rodeo real estate:** French luxury retailer **Chanel** recently bought the Rodeo Drive building it has been leasing for \$152 million. At \$13,217 per square foot, that's a record price for retail space in California. [L.A. Times](#)

**Perking up Pershing:** Poor Pershing Square has spent so many years paved over and walled off from the surrounding streets. A **new design competition** aims to turn it into a more inviting gathering space. Take a look at early ideas here and tell Pershing Square Renew ([pershingsquarenew.com](http://pershingsquarenew.com)) which ones you like. The four most popular teams will go on to present detailed proposals. [Curbed LA](#)

**Bold belly?** If so, read on. Jonathan Gold's list of 10 best dishes of the year doesn't favor the bland. Have you tried foie gras funnel cakes? How about Noorook, which he describes as "a pink, creamy plate of mold"? [L.A. Times](#)

## POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

**Caliphate comments:** Congresswoman **Loretta Sanchez** is doing damage control after she told Larry King that "anywhere between 5% and 20%" of Muslims "have a desire for a caliphate and to institute that in any way possible." The Santa Ana Democrat sits on the House Committee on

Homeland Security and the House Armed Services Committee, and is running for Barbara Boxer's Senate seat. [L.A. Times](#)

**Firing lines?** Los Angeles County's former top attorney, Mark Saladino, has filed a **\$1.5-million claim** as a precursor to a potential lawsuit over his alleged ouster from the position. He says he was fired and forced to write a false press release saying he was departing voluntarily. [L.A. Times](#)

## CRIME AND COURTS

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**Speedy exit:** For scaling a construction crane and shooting off fireworks as a act of protest against SeaWorld, "**Jackass**" star **Steve-O** spends only about 8 hours of a 30-day sentence behind bars. He has jail overcrowding to thank.

[L.A. Times](#)

## CALIFORNIA COMMENTARY

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**Open arms:** The Syrian refugee crisis seems an appropriate time to remember **Luis Olivares**, the charismatic Roman Catholic priest who 30 years ago declared La Placita Church downtown a sanctuary for Central American refugees. [L.A. Times](#)

**Grabbed guns:** Robin Abcarian says **San Francisco** is looking to **regulate how guns are stored** in vehicles after a spate of incidents in which firearms (including those owned by law enforcement) found their way into the wrong hands. She says she's "on the side of demanding that people who own and carry guns do everything in their power to make sure their weapons are safely stored." [L.A. Times](#)

## CALIFORNIA CULTURE

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**Small clunkers:** Did you know that **California's Lemon Law** applies to most household electronics that sell for more than \$100? Manufacturers are supposed to provide spare parts, David Lazarus explains. [L.A. Times](#)

**Look up!** It's time for **Geminids**, one of the best meteor showers of the year. Peak viewing time: Sunday and Monday nights — when the moon will be a waxing crescent and the dark sky should provide excellent viewing. [L.A. Times](#)

**Joplin's joy ride:** Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a psychedelic Porsche? Janis Joplin's custom-decorated **1965 Porsche 356C 1600 Cabriolet** just sold for \$1.76 million, more than anyone expected. (The New York Times, in her obituary wrote: "With the same abandon that she sang, she drove her Porsche through the hills of San Francisco, a fast looking car, decorated with psychedelic butterflies.") [SFGate](#)

**Christmas cacophony:** A look at the Tom & Jerry House, San Francisco's most **over-the-top annual yuletide display**. Its centerpiece is the live Norfolk Island Pine that Tom Taylor and Jerry Goldstein — together 43 years — bought at a nursery in 1970. [SFist](#)

**Walt's footsteps:** Check out the slideshow of **Disneyland images** by Renie Bardeau, who took hundreds of thousands of photos of the park as a staff photographer. Some of them, including "Footsteps," of Walt Disney leaving Sleeping Beauty Castle one morning in 1964, have become very well known.

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